**Analysis and Evaluation exercise on Schafersman article**

**Issue**: Does the scientific method/critical thinking provide the most reliable knowledge about reality?

**Conclusion**: Because the scientific method/cricital thinking rely on empirical evidence, logical reasoning, and a skeptical attitude, they provide the most reliable knowledge.

**Reasons**

Empirical tests allow more than one person to examine the consequences of their beliefs about the nature of reality and see whether or not those consequences can be observed. Observation of the predicted consequence confirms the reliability of the knowledge.

Logical reasoning is used to deduce the consequences of one’s knowledge, so is critical to empirical testing. It’s principles are not influenced by subjective factors like emotional bias which might incorrectly lead a person to reject empirical results or consequences of one’s beliefs.

Skepticism also mitigates against becoming attached to beliefs that do not have adequate evidence and therefore may be unreliable. It does not preclude commitment to knowledge, especially knowledge that has been gained through scientific method/critical thinking.

**Evaluation**

All of the reasons given above are based on an assumption that there are either no absolute elements in the universe, or it is not possible to empirically observe such elements. Therefore knowledge of claims about anything absolute falls outside the realm of the scientific method/critical thinking.

The definition of empiricism in terms of sensory experience, and the denial of subjective experience as possibly falling within the range of empirical evidence, is based on tradition, not logic. TM is an example of a technique that provides systematic, repeatable subjective experience of an absolute field of life, that can be had by an unlimited number of independent observers. From the point of view of MVS, however, because of variability factors, the verification of the nature of Being through TM remains relative as long as one has not stabilized the experience (in CC).